| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 09/838,342 | 04/20/2001 | Akihiro Sugiyama | Q64164 | 1068 |

| | | EXAMINER |
|---|---|---|
| 7590 11/20/2003 | | FLEURANTIN, JEAN B |

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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| 2172 | 5 |

DATE MAILED: 11/20/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

*-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --*

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
  after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
  earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _22 August 2003_.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.    2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is
closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

4)☒ Claim(s) _1-21_ is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) _1-21_ is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

        1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

        3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage
application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

13)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application)
since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet.
37 CFR 1.78.

    a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

14)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific
reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

**Attachment(s)**

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other: .

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Response to Amendment*

1.    Claims 1-21 remain pending for examination.

### *Response to Applicant' Remarks*

2.    Applicant's arguments filed on August 22, 2003 with respect to claims 1-21 have been

considered but are not persuasive because of the following:

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

3.    The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent

No. 6,151,707 issued to Hecksel et al. (hereinafter " Hecksel") in view of U.S. Patent No.

5,913,210 issued to Call (hereinafter "Call").

As per claims 1 and 11, Hecksel discloses a user registration supporting system which

supports a user, who uses a multi-component product including a plurality of products provided

by a plurality of companies, in applying for user registration for the plurality of products (see col.

2, lines 33-37) as claimed, "said system comprises a user-information database which stores user

information including a plurality of data items and regarding the user" as registration software

program 24 may access a memory 26 in the form of any volatile or non-volatile storage and

retrieval device on computer 11, memory 26 may include a variety of registration information

and instructions to assist in operation of registration software program 24, throughout this

document, the term 'registration information' refers to any information relating to characteristics

of the user, characteristics of system 10, usage statistics, responses to previous requests for user

data, answers to survey questions, registration profile data, (see col. 4, lines 3-12);

"a user-information providing section which provides said user-information database with

the user information" as a means for modifying registration information associated with a

particular software program 34, which presenting the user with survey questions or marketing

information associated with software program 34, collecting statistics relating to the use of

software program 34" (see col. 4, lines 22-26); and

"a to-be-registered information generating section which receives specification information

for specifying the at least one data item required by a plurality of companies for the user

registration from a plurality of company terminals which are connected through a network and

used by the respective companies, extracts at least one data item specified by the specification

information, from the user information stored in said user-information database, and generates

to-be-registered information used by each of the plurality of companies for the user registration,"

as means for accessing previously stored registration information to assist a user in a current

software program registration, (see col. 2, lines 24-26), and

"wherein said system can generate the to-be-registered information for the plurality of

companies at once, based on the user information" as system 10 may generate the chronology

table as it processes session data, or the chronology table may have been previously created and

stored in registration profile 30 during initial registration of software program 34a, (see col. 13,

lines 27-31). Hecksel does not explicitly disclose a to-be-registered information generating

section which receives specification information for specifying the at least one data item required

by a plurality of companies for the user registration from a plurality of company terminals which

are connected through a network and used by the respective companies. However, Call discloses

a method registration handler 203 which may obtain the submitted data needed to create the

registration template record in a variety of ways, such as accepting a html web page form

completed and submitted via the internet by a registrant, (see col. 4, lines 27-30), and the

registration procedure may also require each registrant to provide an email address to which an

email message of predetermined content is sent after the initial registration form is completed,

(see col. 4, lines 44-49). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the

time the invention was made to modify the combined teachings of Hecksel and Call with a

to-be-registered information generating section which receives specification information for

specifying the at least one data item required by a plurality of companies for the user registration

from a plurality of company terminals which are connected through a network and used by the

respective companies. Such modification would allow the teachings of Hecksel and Call to

provide a variety of services and functions, (see col. 2, lines 59-60).

As per claims 2, 3 and 13, in addition to the discussion in claim 1, Hecksel further discloses

"a company information database which stores specification information for specifying the at

least one data item required by a plurality of companies for the user registration", (see col. 5,

lines 38-42).

As per claims 4 and 12, the limitations of claims 4 and 12 are rejected in the analysis of claim 1, and these claims are rejected on that basis.

As per claims 5, 6, 15 and 16, in addition to the discussion in claim 1, Hecksel further discloses "wherein said user information includes identification information for identifying the multi-component product used by the user" as the method includes a section 300 'figure 3a' to generate a list of software programs residing on, or accessible to computer 11, a section 350 'figure 3b' to identify a matching software program, and a section 380 'figure 3c' to complete the registration session based on information associated with the matching software program, (see col. 9, lines 30-36);

"said company-information database stores information regarding the plurality of companies providing the products according to multi-component product", (see col. 5, lines 36-42).

As per claims 7 , the limitations of claim 7 are rejected in the analysis of claim 1, and this claim is rejected on that basis.

As per claim 8, in addition to the discussion in claim 1, Hecksel further discloses "a user-information providing section provides said user-information database with the user information which is received by said communication" as remote server that receives, stores and distributes information among a variety of remote devices, (see col. 5, lines 3-8).

As per claims 9 and 19, in addition to the discussion in claim 1, Hecksel further discloses,

"wherein the user information is correction information which is formed by correcting the user

information stored in said user-information database" as post-registration activity periods may be

stored in configuration files to promote modification of registration and marketing data as

updates become necessary without requiring modification to the registration software program,

(see col. 2, lines 62-65).

As per claim 10, the limitations of claim 10 are rejected in the analysis of claims 1 and 8,

and this claim is rejected on that basis.

As per claim 14, the limitations of claim 14 are rejected in the analysis of claim 1, and this

claim is rejected on that basis.

As per claim 17, Hecksel discloses the claimed subject matter except the claimed sending

the to-be-registered information which is generated by said generating to a plurality of company

terminals which are used respectively by the plurality of companies providing the products,

through a network. However, Call discloses a method registration handler 203 which may

obtain the submitted data needed to create the registration template record in a variety of ways,

such as accepting a html web page form completed and submitted via the internet by a

registrant, (see col. 4, lines 27-30), and the registration procedure may also require each

registrant to provide an email address to which an email message of predetermined content is

sent after the initial registration form is completed, (see col. 4, lines 44-49). It would have been

obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the

combined teachings of Hecksel and Call with a to-be-registered information generating section

which <u>receives specification information for specifying the at least one data item required by a</u>

<u>plurality of companies for the user registration from a plurality of company terminals which are</u>

<u>connected through a network and used by the respective companies</u>. Such modification would

allow the teachings of Hecksel and Call to provide a variety of services and functions, (see col.

2, lines 59-60).


As per claim 18, in addition to the discussion in claim 17, Hecksel further discloses

"wherein said storing includes providing the user-information database with the user information

which is received by said receiving", (see col. 5, lines 36-42).


As per claim 20, the limitations of claim 20 are rejected in the analysis of claims 1 and 7,

and this claim is rejected on that basis.


As per claim 21, Hecksel discloses a computer readable recording medium which records a

program for controlling a computer to execute (see col. 2, lines 24-27), "storing user information

including a plurality of data items regarding a user who uses a multi-component product

including a plurality of products provided by a plurality of companies" as the selected

registration information  includes registration information and/or responses to survey questions

provided by a user or otherwise obtained during a previous registration session for a matching

software program, designated by the reference numeral 34n, software programs 34 are

considered matching if they share a common attribute, such as the user, the national language of

the software program, the publisher of the software program or common registration

information, the term 'publisher' refers to the technology provider, software publisher,

information gatherer, company, or other entity having an interest in distributing, collecting,

maintaining, and utilizing registration and/or marketing information related to software program

34, (see col. 5, lines 29-42); and

"extracting a data item specified by the specification information, from the stored user

information, and generating to-be-registered information used by each of the plurality of

companies for the user registration" as a system and method for accessing previously stored

registration information to assist a user in a current software program registration, (see col. 2,

lines 24-26). Hecksel does not explicitly disclose steps of receiving specification information for

specifying the at least one data item required by a plurality of companies for the user registration

from a plurality of company terminals which are connected through a network and used by the

respective companies. However, Call discloses a method registration handler 203 which may

obtain the submitted data needed to create the registration template record in a variety of ways,

such as accepting a html web page form completed and submitted via the internet by a registrant,

(see col. 4, lines 27-30), and the registration procedure may also require each registrant to

provide an email address to which an email message of predetermined content is sent after the

initial registration form is completed, (see col. 4, lines 44-49). It would have been obvious to a

person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combined

teachings of Hecksel and Call with the steps of receiving specification information for specifying

the at least one data item required by a plurality of companies for the user registration from a

plurality of company terminals which are connected through a network and used by the

respective companies.  Such modification would allow the teachings of Hecksel and Call to

provide a variety of services and functions, (see col. 2, lines 59-60).

## *Remarks*

4. Applicant's argument on pages 2 and 3, with respect to claims 1 and 11 have been fully considered but, have been found persuasive only to the extent that the prior of record does not specifically teach or suggest the limitations "receiving information specifying at least one data item that is required for user registration, extracting the specified data item from the user information stored in a database, and generating to-be-registered information required for user registration." However, Call reference discloses such limitations.

Applicant(s) arguing for limitations, which are not exactly recited in the instant claimed invention.

Furthermore, in response to applicant's argument on page 13, that the Hecksel fails to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., receiving information specifying at least one data item that is required for user registration, extracting the specified data item from the user information stored in a database, and generating to-be-registered information required for user registration.) are not recited in the rejected claim(s) 1, 11 and 21. Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

Thus, although Hecksel does not fully identical to the claimed invention, the features recited in the claims are different from applicant's arguments and recited features are clearly taught by Hecksel. Further, Hecksel discloses post registration activity periods may be stored in configuration files to promote modification of registration and marketing data as updates become necessary without requiring modification to the registration software program, (see col. 2, lines 62-65).

Therefore, the rejection in last Office Action is maintained.

## *Conclusion*

4.      Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this

Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a).

Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO

MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after

the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period

will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37

CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this

final action.

*Contact Information*

5.      Any inquiry concerning this communication from examiner should be directed to Jean

Bolte Fleurantin at (703) 308-6718. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through

Friday from 7:30 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.

If any attempt to reach the examiner by telephone is unsuccessful, the examiner s

supervisor, Mrs. KIM VU can be reached at (703) 305-8449. The FAX phone numbers for the

Group 2100 Customer Service Center are: After Final (703) 746-7238, Official (703) 746-7239,

and Non-Official (703) 746-7240.  NOTE: Documents transmitted by facsimile will be entered

as official documents on the file wrapper unless clearly marked   DRAFT  .

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding

should be directed to the Group 2100 Customer Service Center receptionist whose telephone

numbers are (703) 306-5631, (703) 306-5632, (703) 306-5633.

Jean Bolte Fleurantin

2003-11-01

JBF/

SHAHID ALAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER